



ESG4 Conference at UCSB

4th IASPEI / IAEE International Symposium: Effects of Surface Geology on Strong Ground Motion

Executive Summary:

The 4th International IASPEI/IAEE Symposium on the Effects of Surface Geology on Strong Ground Motion (ESG4) was held at the University of California Santa Barbara from 23 – 26 August 2011. (<http://esg4.eri.ucsb.edu/>) The first three Symposia were held in 1992 in Odawara, Japan, in 1998 in Yokohama, Japan, and in 2006 in Grenoble, France. The ESG working group was created jointly by IASPEI (International Association of Seismology and Physics of the Earth's Interior) and IAEE (International Association of Earthquake Engineering) almost 30 years ago to promote a greater understanding and analysis of the effects of surface geology on ground motion.

The meeting was generously supported by the NSF, the USGS, the Southern California Earthquake Center (SCEC), Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E), Kinematics, IASPEI and the Earth Research Institute and Department of Earth Science at the University of California. More than 200 researchers and practitioners, including more than 20 students, attended the Symposium.

The Symposium at UCSB consisted of a pre-meeting NEES (NSF Network Earthquake Engineering Simulation) workshop, 16 plenary sessions, and a half-day workshop on the Vs30 debate. The invited speakers were an international group of scientists and engineers who spoke on diverse topics from the state-of-the-art ground motion research and to engineering practice.

Papers submitted to the Symposium were presented in poster sessions with generous time allowances each day. There were 124 papers submitted from 16 countries. The proceedings of the Symposium have been released on CD-ROM and are available through the website.

Professor Ralph Archuleta of the Department of Earth Science at UCSB served as the Chairman of the Symposium. Dr. Sandra Seale, researcher at the Earth Research Institute, was de facto head of the local organizing committee: Archuleta, Dr. Jamison Steidl and staff from the Earth Research Institute.

Details of the Symposium, including downloads of the papers, plenary talks, events, and photographs, are found at the URL <http://esg4.eri.ucsb.edu/>.

At ESG4 the Working Group on the Effects of Surface Geology on Strong Motions, led by Professors Hiroshige Kawase of the Disaster Prevention Research Institute (DPRI), Kyoto University and Jacobo Bielak, of Carnegie Mellon University, decided that the next ESG Symposium would be held in Taiwan, Republic of China, around 2015. Professor Kuo-Liang Wen of the Institute of Geophysics, National Central University, will be the Chair of the Symposium.